

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

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UNCLAS HONG KONG 6542

FOR PER AND PRC/M ARMSTRONG

1. I AM DEEPLY CONCERNED ABOUT STAFFING OF ESSENTIAL POSITIONS AT HONG KONG.

IN ADDITION TO LONG-SCHEDULED TRANSFERS OF DPO AND EIGHT OTHER OFFICERS, ADMIN OFFICER AND CHIEF OF CONSULAR SECTION HAVE BOTH RECEIVED UNEXPECTED TRANSFER ORDERS IN MID-TOUR. I AGREED TO LATTER TRANSFERS WITH UNDERSTANDING THAT LIST OF POSSIBLE REPLACEMENTS WOULD BE SENT TO ME FOR DECISION AND THAT REPLACEMENTS WOULD ARRIVE IN TIME FOR OVERLAP OR AT WORSE AFTER VERY SHORT GAP. I HAVE NOT RECEIVED ANY NAMES FROM THE DEPARTMENT.

2. MR. BLEVINS, OUR CONSULAR CHIEF, APPARENTLY IS EXPECTED IN THE DEPARTMENT IN EARLY JULY. OUR CONSULAR SECTION, HOWEVER, IS NOW AT ITS BUSIEST WITH GREATLY INCREASED VISITOR AND STUDENT VISA APPLICATIONS. OUR PROBLEMS IN THIS SECTION ARE COMPOUNDED BY THE DEPARTURE OF ANOTHER THREE OF OUR VISA OFFICERS IN JULY.

3. IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT I RECEIVE THE NAMES OF POSSIBLE REPLACEMENTS FOR BLEVINS AND WILDS IMMEDIATELY. THEIR DEPARTURE PLANS DEPEND ON ARRIVAL TIMES OF THEIR REPLACEMENTS.
CROSS

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